THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to introduce air conditioned trains for Mumbai local train services.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Vacancies of Railway Safety Staff

3829. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

SHRI T.S. BAJWA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 10,000 vacancies of ground level Safety Staff in the Railways are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details of vacancies lying vacant, zone-wise and the period from which they are lying vacant;

(c) the Special Safety Fund allocated for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(d) the amount that has been spent on safety during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA) : (a) and (b) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process and filling up is by direct recruitment or promotion of serving employees. While a few vacancies are likely to exist in this continuous process at any given point of time, the policy of the Government is to fill up the vacancies promptly. Details are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) During 2001-2002, an amount of Rs. 1400 crores (net) was allocated to the Railways out of the Special Railway Safety Fund against which the expenditure incurred has been Rs. 1434.28 crores. In 2002-2003, in the Budget Estimates , Rs. 2210 crores (net) was allotted, which has been increased to Rs. 2310 crores in the Revised Estimates.